

Missouri Ethics Commission

Senate Bill 844 – Campaign Finance

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Question:** When does Senate Bill 844 go into effect?
Answer: *All provisions become effective August 28th, 2010 (unless otherwise stated)*

Political Party Committees

2. **Question:** We are a political party committee, do we have to do anything before August 28th?
Answer: *If you are a political party campaign finance committee at a state or congressional district level you do not need to do anything. Your campaign finance committee will automatically remain in existence.*

However, if you are a political party campaign finance committee at a county, legislative, senatorial, or judicial level, you have the option to convert to a political action committee or terminate. (Complete [Political Party Committee Form](#) and return to MEC).
3. **Question:** Does this mean our committee is no longer a political party committee?
Answer: *No, Senate Bill 844 did not do away with political party committees that primarily exist to nominate candidates to fill vacancies or other such purposes at the county, legislative, senatorial or judicial levels (defined in Chapter 115). For campaign finance purposes (accepting contributions and making expenditures to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues) these campaign finance committees will now be considered a campaign finance political action committee (PAC).*
4. **Question:** Will we receive any communication regarding the new requirements from the Missouri Ethics Commission?
Answer: *Yes, all political party committees were sent a letter (mailed 08/02/2010) detailing the new requirements. Political parties committees required to either convert or terminate their current committee also received a Political Party Committee Form to be completed and returned to MEC. View examples of the [correspondence](#) sent on our website.*
5. **Question:** How do we convert our political party committee?
Answer:
 - a. *Complete Political Party Committee Form*
 - b. *Return to MEC by August 15th, 2010*

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6. **Question:** How do we terminate our political party committee?
 Answer: a. *Complete Political Party Committee Form*
 b. *Distribute all excess funds*
 c. *Close committee bank account and dissolve committee*
 c. *File [Committee Termination Statement](#) along with a full disclosure report. May also be done electronically.*
 d. *File all with Missouri Ethics Commission by August 28th, 2010*
 e. *See [Terminating a Committee](#) brochure for more information*
7. **Question:** Do we have to change the committee name?
 Answer: *No, the Commission will convert the committee with the exact committee name, number and other information intact.*
8. **Question:** Do I have to open a new bank account?
 Answer: *No, the bank account listed on the Statement of Committee Organization is the official fund depository for the committee. The Commission will convert the committee with the exact bank account information intact. **However, any money the committee receives or spends solely for the committee duties under Chapter 115 (see question #3) must be maintained in a separate bank account. The bank account which serves as the official fund depository the committee uses for the receiving or spending of money for their campaign finance activities (in support/opposition of candidate or ballot issue) must be separately maintained.** (Updated 08/12/10)*
9. **Question:** Do I have to start with new aggregate reporting dollar amounts upon conversion?
 Answer: *No, you will follow the same reporting election cycle as before.*
10. **Question:** Our political party just elected new or (re-elected) committee men/women, is this position going to be done away with?
 Answer: *No, changes from SB844, affect only the committee's status as a campaign finance political party committee. The type of campaign finance committee will change from political party to political action committee.*

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Political Action Committees

11. **Question:** We are a continuing committee, do we have to do anything before August 28th?
Answer: *No, continuing committees will now be known as political action committees. The definition remains the same. Your committee type will automatically be updated by the MEC to reflect the change.*

12. **Question:** Will we receive any communication regarding the new requirements from the Missouri Ethics Commission?
Answer: *Yes, all continuing (PAC) committees were sent correspondence (08/10/10) detailing the new requirements. View examples of the [correspondence](#) sent on our website.*

13. **Question:** If I have new committee officers, what should I do to report these to the MEC?
Answer: *File an Amended Statement of Committee Organization indicating the new officers.*

14. **Question:** If a continuing committee that is required to become a political action committee after August 28, 2010, received a contribution from a candidate committee prior to August 28, 2010, is the committee required to return that contribution?
Answer: *No, as long as the committee received the contribution prior to August 28, 2010, and properly reports the contribution on the next upcoming report. (added 08/13/10)*

15. **Question:** Can a state house or state senate political action committee, designated by the majority/minority floor leader, *accept* contributions from another political action committee?
Answer: *Yes, §130.031.14 specifically excludes state house and state senate political action committees, designated by the majority/minority floor leader, from the restrictions placed upon other political action committees regarding who they can and cannot receive contributions from. (added 08/20/10)*

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16. **Question:** Can a federal political action committee make contributions to a political action committee registered in Missouri?
- Answer:** *Yes, a federal political action committee can make contributions to any campaign finance committee registered in Missouri, including political action committees. (added 08/20/10)*
17. **Question:** How does a federal political action committee report their campaign finance activity?
- Answer:** *Federal political action committees are required to file their reports with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). More information about the FEC may be found on their website at www.fec.gov. (added 08/20/10)*
18. **Question:** Are federal political action committees that contribute to Missouri committees required to register as out-of-state committees under Missouri law?
- Answer:** *No, as long as the federal action committee is in compliance with the FEC, they are not required to register under Missouri law. (11CFR108.71, 208 U.S.C. 439). (added 08/20/10)*

Electronic Filing

19. **Question:** Do I have to file electronically?
- Answer:** *Yes, effective January 1, 2011, all committees required to file their campaign finance disclosure reports with the MEC, will have to file electronically.*
20. **Question:** What do I need to do to get set-up for electronic filing?
- Answer:**
- a. *Complete Personal Identification Number Application (PIN App) and Committee Filing Agreement (Waiver) (can be downloaded from our website)*
 - b. *Mail or fax to MEC. (Log-in and password information will be emailed to the address provided)*